

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR PDIP MO

SUBJECT:MOROCCAN CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK REPORTEDLY
DETAINED AT AIRPORT

REF: RABAT 2667

1. DEPTOFFS (PROTOCOL AND NEA/AFN) DISCUSSED SUBJECT
INCIDENT WITH CUSTOMS OFFICIAL INVOLVED JUNE 5. OFFICIAL
EXPLAINED THAT DOGS OF NARCOTICS INSPECTION TEAM COVERING
MOROCCAN FLIGHT TO NEW YORK HAD HAD EXCITED REACTION TO
THREE PACKAGES IN JAIDI'S ACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE. VIENNA
CONVENTION AND U.S. REGULATIONS PERMIT INSPECTION OF
DIPLOMATS' BAGGAGE IF THERE IS REASONABLE SUSPICION IT MAY
CONTAIN FORBIDDEN OR QUARANTINED ITEMS, AND CUSTOMS OFFICIAL
THEREFORE ASKED JAIDI WHAT PACKAGES CONTAINED. LATTER
REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW. OFFICIAL THEN MADE REQUEST TO
INSPECT BAGGAGE WHICH CAUSED JAIDI TO LOSE HIS TEMPER.
LATTER EVENTUALLY AGREED TO INSPECTION BUT UNDER PROTEST.

2. CUSTOMS OFFICIAL REPORTS FIRST PACKAGE CONTAINED
CLOTHING BELONGING TO GOM MINISTER FOR RETURN TO SAKS FIFTH
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AVENUE BECAUSE SIZES INCORRECT, ACCORDING TO JAIDI. SECOND

PACKAGE CONTAINED FIVE BRIEFCASES. THIRD PACKAGE, WHICH PRESUMABLY WAS CAUSE FOR CANINE AGITATION, CONTAINED 15 TO 18 POUNDS OF MEAT, MORE PRECISELY MISHWI OR ROAST LAMB. LATTER WAS SEIZED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPRESENTATIVES AS PROHIBITED FROM ADMISSION TO U.S.

3. CUSTOMS OFFICIAL STATES THAT EPISODE WOULD NOT HAVE LASTED AS LONG AS IT DID, IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR JAIDI'S RELUCTANCE TO COOPERATE. HE NOTES THAT ON DEPARTURE FROM SCENE, JAIDI SAID HE WILL SEE TO IT THAT THE U.S. DIPLOMATS ENTERING MOROCCO ARE TREATED THE SAME WAY HE WAS.

4. DEPARTMENT REGRETS INCONVENIENCE CAUSED JAIDI IN THIS INCIDENT, BUT MUST POINT OUT THAT U.S. CUSTOMS WAS ACTING WITHIN THE LAW. BELIEVE CONVERSATION DEPTOFFS HAD WITH CUSTOMS OFFICIAL ON INCIDENT SHOULD SERVE TO EASE SITUATION IN FUTURE FOR JAIDI, WHO FREQUENTLY TRAVELS TO AND FROM NEW YORK IN PERFORMANCE OF WIDE VARIETY OF MISSIONS FOR MOROCCAN OFFICIALDOM.

5. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON ABOVE AT ITS DISCRETION IN REPLYING TO GOM NOTE VERBALE REPORTED REFTEL. KISSINGER

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